

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

THE VIGILEER

Vol. 52 No. 27

July 14, 2006

Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Water restrictions

The Pordenone mayor has issued water restrictions through Aug. 31. Pordenone residents must not water their gardens, flowers or wash their vehicles from 6 to 8 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. Violators will be fined. Additionally, the mayor asks Pordenone residents who use water from a public source to use it sparingly.

Volunteer program

Aviano officials started a program to recognize all of Aviano's outstanding volunteers. The program will recognize volunteers weekly during the wing staff meeting. People at any level can nominate someone, even children or family members. To nominate someone, or for more information, contact Sylvia Flores at Ext. 5407/5658 or e-mail sylvia.flores@aviano.af.mil.

Spouse It Up

The next Spouse It Up is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday in Area D. For more information, call the family support center at Ext. 5407.

**By Senior Airman
Colleen Wronek
31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs**

Aviano's new air traffic control tower began launching and landing jets July 5.

The tower, which is a combined U.S. Air Force and Italian air force facility, gives air traffic controllers a panoramic view of the flightline and surrounding area. The old tower, built in the 1950s, was three stories tall. The new tower is eight.

"We have better visibility; we don't have as many blind spots," said Tech. Sgt. Ricardo Anzoategui, 31st Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller watch supervisor. "In the old tower, we sat much lower and there were more things blocking our view. Now we can see above everything."

The new tower also provides a better structure than the old tower and has more rooms.

"We have a bigger office, equipment rooms, a training room, a simulator room and we even have an elevator," Sergeant Anzoategui said.

The tower is in a convenient location for air traffic controllers because it is located next door to the radar facility.

See Tower, Page 20 —



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nathan Doza

Maresciallo Fabio Palombi, Italian air force air traffic controller, communicates with inbound pilots as aircraft make a landing approach. The new air traffic control tower, featuring state-of-the-art technology, opened July 5.

Block party: The La Bella Vista Club is hosting a block party at 6 p.m. today. The party features food, games and live music.

31st FW Sortie Board

sortie: n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	1078.6	777
	-23.3	-8

Information current as of Thursday.



Teamwork

With brushes, brooms and sand paper, Aviano volunteers teamed up to clean the Fontanafredda sports stadium.

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Remembering

Aviano members honor the memory of Senior Airman Seneca Johnston who passed away Saturday.

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31st Fighter Wing

Commander's Corner

World's Finest Warriors – I hope you all had a great week ... I came off leave a bit early for a sad occasion – SrA Seneca Johnston's memorial service. I was proud to have a moment to remember his contribution to the Nation and spend time with his family and friends from the 31st Maintenance Squadron. I was also honored to help us begin the healing process, to participate in picking up the torch of excellence Seneca left for us. To all of you out there – like you, Barb and I are deeply saddened by our loss. Be assured that we will bind together with you all to digest and then heal as one Wing ... one World's Finest Wing ... deeply effected by loss but determined to remain indivisible and strong.

We also had a number of changes of command this week: Lt. Col Thomas Daack took command of the 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron from Lt. Col. Thomas Sadlo; Lt. Col. Clay Hall took command of the 555th Fighter Squadron, replacing Lt. Col. Charles Moore; Lt. Col. Elizabeth Brown took command of the 31st Civil Engineer Squadron from Lt. Col. Joseph Castro; and Lt. Col. Nathan Lyden will take command of the 31st Maintenance Squadron from Lt. Col. Douglas Plymale, who is retiring. To our outgoing commanders, thank you for your hard work during your tenure at Aviano! And to our new commanders and your families, welcome! I am certain you will find this assignment challenging and rewarding.

Next week we'll be saying farewell to three folks who are very special to me and this wing – my secretary, Chris Diaz; my executive officer, 1st Lt. Phil Alvarez; and Maj. Mara Wight, my director of staff and "mio braccio destro," (my right arm). To Chris, Phil and Mara, I say "Grazie Mille!" You've all done so much to help everything come together this past year and I want to take this time to thank you. Barb and I will miss you all and we wish you continued success and happiness in the future.

Speaking of success ... this week is a perfect

time to showcase the successes of our own 31st Medical Group. Their week began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony that officially opened the new medical treatment facility at Area One. With more than \$28 million invested in the state-of-the-art, high-tech medical center, there was plenty of "oohing" and "ahhing" to be heard – it is an outstanding facility! For everyone's information: medical services previously provided at Sacile Hospital are available now at our Area One Medical Treatment Facility! In addition to this good news, today is a big day for Lt Col Naomi Lawless, the MSG deputy commander: she pins on her O-6 Eagles today! Congrats Naomi and Sam – well deserved and many happy returns!

As always, the week ahead promises to be busy, but if you have time next Wednesday, I encourage you stop by Area D for the First Anniversary celebration of Spouse It Up! Beginning at 11 a.m., we will engage in a "Festa d'Acqua," or "Festival of Water" – a popular local festival theme. We've prepared plenty of great food, good company, and water sports, i.e. water balloon volleyball, super soakers, sprinklers for the kids – so be prepared to get soaked! For more details, please call the family support center at Ext. 5407.

Finally men and women – this weekend remember you are Airmen engaged in the War Against Risk. Remember 'PIANO' in all you do – especially when driving. Take time to be safe; take time to enjoy yourself; and remember that your lives are precious – to us all. Do not speed and drink and drive ... do not speed and drink and drive ... do not speed and drink and drive – 'PIANO.' And come Monday morning I look forward to seeing each and every one of you safe and sound right here on the World's Finest ranch!



Aviano Airmen of the Week

Name: Staff Sgt. Wynetta Thomas

Unit: 31st Medical Support Squadron

Job: Pharmacy journeyman

Hometown: Orlando, Fla.

Family: Mother, Geraldine Luckett; father, T.E. Luckett; brother, Glenn Conner

Hobbies: Traveling, shopping, reading, watching movies and being with friends

Why joined: For the travel and education opportunities



Name: Airman 1st Class Audrey Harmon

Unit: 31st Medical Operations Squadron

Job: Aerospace medical service apprentice

Hometown: Garrett, Ind.

Family: Son, Ashton

Hobbies: Sports

Why joined: For the travel and education benefits



In memory of Senior Airman Seneca Johnston

"Senior Airman Seneca Brian Johnston will never be forgotten. He touched us all during his time in the Air Force and on this Earth. We will remember his quick wit, selfless caring for others, desire to put others first, and achievements as a bright and shiny Air Force star. In the days ahead we will bind together in support of one another; the World's Finest will never forget, but strengthen our resolve to carry on Seneca's work."

- Brig. Gen. Robert Yates, 31st Fighter Wing commander

"I remember Seneca singing R. Kelly's 'Happy People' one day in the shop. He had one of the worst singing voices I've ever heard. It was especially funny when he tried to hit the higher notes. It was like watching a bad American Idol show. It's a good thing he stuck with Hip-Hop. It hurts knowing that I'll never hear him again, whether it be free-styling on stage or trying to sing a song in the shop."

- Staff Sgt. Benjamin Roland, 31st MXS

"Seneca was the best friend a person could ever have. If you ever needed anything he would be right there. He had a great passion for music which he shared with me. I am grateful I knew him. He loved Hip-Hop so much, and he made me appreciate it even more then I did before I met him. He was a positive influence and helped me a lot while I was stationed at Aviano. He was like a brother to me and he will be missed. He was Hip-Hop and in his words: Peace, love and Hip-Hop. Grey Area."

- Charles Wilkins

"Seneca was more than a best friend to me. I'm not sure what kind of path I would have taken in Aviano if I never met him, for he spent most of his time with me and my wife, Sueann. When I deployed to the desert, I didn't have to worry about my wife being in good hands and ever being lonely. He made sure she was always taken care of and I thank him for that. A true mastermind when it came to music, he opened my eyes to the real mean-



ing of Hip-Hop and how we can use the things we learned in music and translate it into our everyday lives. His teachings in his music will live on forever, and he will continue to live on through those that held him close to their hearts.

As he continues his new chapter living beside our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let us not forget that he watches over us and we must not forget his family for I know they will always be in my and my family's thoughts and prayers. Seneca, your void will be a hard one to fill, save a place in heaven till the next time we meet. I love you, my brother."

- Senior Airman Oscar Ramos, 366th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho

"I will say a prayer for him and his family. I know he will be missed by us all. Please, tell his family that he was an asset to the shop and to the community. I am speechless here ... this is heartfelt."

- Staff Sgt. David Adams, 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

"Seneca had the ability to see the good in any situation. His smile and vibrant personality were contagious. His unique leadership style brought out the best in all he came in contact with. He loved life and lived it to the fullest. Through his poetry and music he touched so many people not only at Aviano but in the local community as well. The world is definitely less colorful without him. Seneca, you will be missed."

- Senior Master Sgt. Richard Rowe, 31st MXS

"Seneca had the ability to add humor and to relieve tensions during stressful situations with a few words. A very easy going person,

someone you could not help but like, always there willing to help. I miss his smile, laugh and witty remarks. I am very fortunate to have known him. Seneca is very much missed."

- Tech. Sgt. Timothy King, 31st MXS

"Seneca, it's going to be hard not seeing you everyday. God decided it was time to take you away from us and bring you home. You will be truly missed. May God rest your soul."

- Tech. Sgt. Chuck Thomas (P-Nut,) 31st MXS

"God bless you Seneca for all you have done for me, your family and friends. I will never forget you, and you will always be in my heart. I know you have left an awesome influence on everyone around you, and they will always speak so highly of you."

- Love always, Rachel Santos

"I have worked with Airman Johnston for more than two years. He was a great person. If you ever needed anything, he would do his best to help you out. I deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq, with Seneca and he contributed a lot to the cause. He always had a knack of being able to make you laugh or smile during the rough times over there. He will be greatly missed by all and I am saddened to have lost a good friend."

- Tech. Sgt. Shawn Allen, 31st MXS

"Airman Johnston was always soft spoken, smiling and easy to get along with. He was an integral part of the sheet metal family. Him taken away from us is the deepest of wounds; Seneca is sorely missed."

- Brian Vilders, 31st Maintenance Squadron

"I knew Seneca for about three years. I loved the fact that he was always himself and remained consistent. He had a beautiful heart and never said no to those he cared for. He found his voice to the world through his music. Caring for others was also a big part of who he was. We have to live for Seneca, love Hip-Hop and keep on keeping on; cause that's what he would have wanted."

- Staff Sgt. DeShawn Smith, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.



U.S. Air Force

Enlisted Perspective: Farewell fellow Airmen

By former Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray

It's been my honor and privilege to serve as your 14th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. As I culminate my 29-year career, I want to thank each of you for volunteering to serve our nation, for fighting the Global War on Terror and for continuing to keep our Air Force strong.

Early in my tenure I wrote a CMSAF Perspective entitled: "To the members of the best enlisted force in the world." I whole-heartedly believed that then; now after four years traveling around our Air Force, meeting with so many of you and witnessing the tremendous feats you accomplish everyday, I'm convinced even more.

Your pride and professionalism are awesome and continue to make the difference in our ability to accomplish our mission. We dominate in air, space, and across the planet because of you. You truly are the nation's and our Air Force's greatest asset.

As America's Airmen we are asked to lead the way in the fight for freedom. Together we transformed from Cold War mentalities to a combat expeditionary Air Force....an incredibly strong, agile, and lethal force. Our combat role began more than 15 years ago with Desert Storm. You've since honed your skills through Operations Northern and Southern Watch, Allied Force, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom, among many other challenges.

In the Global War on Terror you've taken the fight to the enemy and defeated them everywhere you engaged. As



Former Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force
Gerald Murray

the war continues, you must remain resolute, strong, and prepared to fight anytime and anywhere that our liberties, or those of our allies, are threatened. I am confident that just as those who came before us overcame challenges, you will continue to soar to the challenges ahead with courage, commitment, and conviction. I'm grateful to have served with such outstanding men and women who exemplify these values.

Because of your service and sacrifice, the seeds of democracy are growing in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other areas of the world. Take pride in your part in building the future of these nations – nations that simply want to enjoy the freedoms we often take for granted. Most importantly, stand fast in preserving our great democracy and way of life in the United States of America. As Airmen, we can measure our

success not in dollars, rank or recognition, but in the ability to make a difference in someone else's life, in our nation and in our world.

Our Chief of Staff, Gen. T. Michael Moseley, selected Chief Rod McKinley to be the 15th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. He is a committed leader, with tremendous experience, education, and compassion. His strength and character make him the right person at the right time to lead and represent our outstanding enlisted force.

I leave you in good hands, and the Air Force in your capable hands. Keep your focus on winning this war and taking care of each other. Best wishes to each of you.

Recognizing The World's Finest



UPCLOSE

and personal with Aviano's best

The Chiefs Choice Award is presented to top performers whose daily efforts distinguish them from their peers, but, because they sometimes work behind the scenes, they are often unrecognized.

Recipients are nominated and voted for by the Aviano Chiefs Group.

Tech. Sgt. Dennis Hall, 31st Maintenance Squadron, was recently selected for the Chief's Choice Award for his work at modernizing information management office process/procedures and streamlining paperwork. He initiated a thorough in-house training program that enhanced 31st MXS information managers' continuity and he coordinated system installation and upgrade training for nine flight client support administrators. Sergeant Hall is responsible for supporting 300 computer systems and assisting 650 31st MXS people with computer-related problems.

Q: What do you like most about your job?

A: Helping individuals resolve computer problems so they can perform their jobs.

Q: How long have you been in the service?

A: 15.5 years.

Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

A: Retired and working for the U.S. State Department.

Q: Where is your hometown and what do you miss most about it?

A: Chicago, Illinois.

I miss my family and friends.

Q: What are the most important qualities an Airman should have and why?

A: Initiative and dedication. Airmen need to take the initiative to get things done

and have the dedication to follow through until the job is complete.

Q: What does it take for you to have a good day at work?

A: I try to approach every day with a positive attitude.



Christmas in July:

Having a holiday spending plan saves time, money

By Senior Airman Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

While the frantic - and expensive pace - of holiday shopping can seem far away under the scorching July sun, it can be the best time of year to begin holiday budget planning.

Tom Snyder, a personal financial counselor at Aviano's Family Support Center, said some people are haunted by the 'Ghost of Christmas Past' from not planning properly. "This is the debt that is still owed on past Christmases when another Christmas rolls around," he said.

To help 'ghost-buster' this problem, Mr. Snyder recommends people make a list of individuals they plan to buy for and then setting a maximum spending limit for each person.

"Determine what you can afford in cash, not plastic, and stick with that. Start now and put a cutoff day for shopping, such as Dec. 1. You'll be able to enjoy the holidays instead of worrying," he said.

Another way to plan ahead is by using some sort of a monthly savings plan.

"Open a Christmas Club account at the credit union or a special savings account where a predetermined amount of money

is deducted each payday," advised Mr. Snyder. "This way you will be a year ahead of the holidays instead of a year behind."

One key way to save is to wait for sales or deals. If a potential gift is on sale now, buy it and save for later. "Just remember where you hid it come holiday time," said Mr. Snyder.

For more financial advice, or to make an individual appointment, call Tom Snyder at Ext. 5656.

Shopping tip\$

- Instead of giving money to children give U.S. savings bonds plus a small gift they can open. This works especially well with nieces, nephews and grandchildren.
- Buy wrapping paper, Christmas cards and other bargains in January.
- Beware of gift cards. Some come with fees, some with limitations on what you can purchase, and some have expiration dates. Check with the store on any restrictions.

New location: The education center is now open in Bldg. 147 in Area One. WAPS testing will continue at Bldg. 186. Call Ext. 5330 for details.



Photo courtesy of Lockheed Martin

Lightning strikes

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley announces the name selected for the new Lockheed Martin F-35 during the inauguration ceremony at the Lockheed Martin plant in Fort Worth, Texas, July 7. The jet, named the Lightning II, is a fifth-generation, supersonic stealth fighter designed to replace a wide range of existing aircraft, including the AV-8B Harrier, A-10 Thunderbolt II, F-16 Fighting Falcon, F/A-18 Hornet and Royal Air Force Harrier GR-7 and Sea Harriers.

This month in history

July 12, 1990 – The U.S. Air Force accepts delivery of the last of 59 Lockheed F-117A Stealth fighter-bombers.

July 13, 1921 – Army-Navy bombing tests sank three captured German ships.

July 15, 1961 – The first Minuteman I missile wing was activated at Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

July 16, 1971 – Jeanne M. Holm, director of Women in the Air Force, became the first woman promoted to brigadier general.

July 19, 1957 – The U.S. Air Force fires the first air-to-air nuclear defense rocket, the Douglas MB-1 Genie, from an F-89J over Yucca Flat, Nev.

July 21, 1961 – America's second Project Mercury astronaut, Capt. Virgil I. Grissom, attains an altitude of 118 miles and flies 5,310 mph in a 303-mile sub-orbital space flight from Cape Canaveral in the Liberty Bell 7 capsule.

July 26, 1947 – President Harry S. Truman had approved the National Security Act of 1947. He also issued Executive Order 9877 which by presidential directive outlined the duties of the three services. Each was responsible for the area in which it operated – ground, sea and air, although the Navy retained an air arm and the Marine Corps.

A little elbow grea

**Story and photos by
Senior Airman Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

As part of a community clean up volunteer project, Aviano members scraped, sanded, painted and swept the Fontanafredda Sports Stadium into shape Saturday.

The stadium, which hadn't been used since it was completed in October 2005, needed a lot of work to prepare it for the international rugby championship in August.

Help came in the form of more than 40 base volunteers armed with sandpaper, paint brushes, brooms and various community organizations such as the Alpini group, who provided a pasta lunch.

"My biggest goal is to foster the relationship between the Italian and American communities and this is a positive way we can do that," said Sylvia Flores, 31st Mission Support Squadron family support center volunteer coordinator. "It's a good opportunity to do something worthwhile."

For some, helping the community is just one aspect to volunteering. Getting to know their neighbors and learning about their host community is another.

"I live near here and thought I would try to interact with some local nationals," said Staff Sgt. John Vasquez, 603rd Air Control Squadron. By doing similar volunteer activities at his last base, Sergeant Vasquez made a lot of friends and found himself learning a new language. "By immersing myself in the local culture, I get to see new places, meet new people and have new experiences."

For more volunteer opportunities on and off-base, call Sylvia Flores at Ext. 5407.



Airman 1st Class Ryan Kowalczyk, front, Tech. Sgt. John Vasquez, middle, and Airman 1st Class Bret Talbott, back, with the 603rd Air Control Squadron, put primer on the Fontanafredda stadium walls Saturday.



se goes a long way



Staff Sgt. Jason Nila, left, and Staff Sgt. John Corley, right, 603rd Air Control Squadron, repair cracks in the stadium walls with caulk. About 30 603rd ACS volunteers came out for the clean up. 'We decided to volunteer as a squadron to do our part,' said Senior Master Sgt. Chris Lopez, 603rd ACS operations enlisted manager.



Anna, left, and Irene, right, daughters of Master Sgt. Dwayne Morgan, 31st Operations Support Squadron first sergeant, help scrape mold and old paint off the concrete stadium walls.



Left: Airman 1st Class Michelle Scott, left, and Senior Airman Tiffany Bell, right, 603rd ACS, prime and paint stadium doors. More than 40 Aviano volunteers came out Saturday to spruce up the Fontanafredda stadium. Afterward, the Alpini group provided a hot pasta lunch for the workers.



Airman 1st Class James Sidwell, 603rd Air Control Squadron, refills buckets with primer. In addition to helping his community, Airman Sidwell participated in the clean up project for a chance to get out of the house. 'I have never done anything in the Italian community and thought this would be a good place to start,' he said.

Left: Senior Airman Regina Nickel, 31st Operations Support Squadron, weeds the perimeter of the stadium.

Right: Volunteers were needed to take down, sand and scrape old paint from doors.



Road closed

Via Barbarisi, west of the Dragon Fitness Center and in front of Bldg. 13265 is closed for underground utility work Monday through July 22. Traffic will be rerouted. For more information, call Ext. 5800.

FTAC leader

The First Term Airman Center is looking for a motivated senior airman or staff sergeant to serve as a team leader for 120 days beginning Monday. Team leaders must be an Airman Leadership School graduate, possess outstanding dress and appearance and excellent customs and courtesies skills. Potential leaders must clear with their supervisor and squadron before setting up an interview. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Travis Aberle at Ext. 5249.

Retirees

The Aviano Retiree Council hosts a buffet luncheon at noon Wednesday in the La Bella Vista Club. The luncheon theme is "Your Health, Your Wealth" and the cost is

\$12 per person. For more information, or to R.S.V.P., call Walter Millington at 0434-653-263.

Thrift shop opens

The Aviano Thrift Shop grand re-opening is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday in Area One, Bldg. 186. The thrift shop business hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship training is from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesday and 1 to 2 p.m. July 26 at the family support center. For more information, call Ext. 5407.

Camp Adventure

The 31st Services Squadron is sponsoring a theme-based camp for first through fifth graders. The camp is called Camp Adventure and consists of one-week sessions from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The next adventure is a Tropical Tiki Tour and is Monday through Friday. The following adventure is Ice Age Escapades and is July 24 to 28. The cost is \$70 for non-mem-

bers and \$65 for members. For more information, call Youth Programs at Ext. 8713.

Embry-Riddle

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers an airport operations and management class, which can be used towards a Master of Aeronautical Science degree. Registration begins July 28. For more information, call Ext. 5140.

Camping opportunity

Camp Echo, located 90 minutes from New York City, is offering a camping trip for Air Force Youth. The camping trip is from July 30 to Aug. 19 and costs \$3,950. The camp is free to youth with deployed parents. Parents are financially responsible for transportation to one of the bus depots or to the nearest airport and \$200 for camp uniforms. For more information, call Dave Labonte at Ext. 5823 or visit www.campecho.com.

Registration

The University of Maryland University College and the Bowie State University graduate programs is accepting registration for Term One. Active duty registration is Aug. 7 to 18 and open registration is Aug. 9 to 18 for classes beginning Aug. 21. For more information, call Ext. 5365.

Scout camp

The Aviano scouts are holding a medieval-themed twilight camp from 5 to 8 p.m. Aug. 7 to 11 at Area D. The cost is \$35 for registered Girl Scouts and \$45 for non-registered Girl Scouts. For more information or to sign up a Girl Scout, call Valery Hodgson at 0434-76-8521 or e-mail cookie6886@yahoo.com.

The cub scouts are also invited. For more information or to sign up a Cub Scout, e-mail richard.tangen@aviano.af.mil.

Children's theater

Missoula Children's Theater presents "Little Red Riding Hood" Aug. 12. The theater will hold auditions Aug.

6 and will rehearse at 10 a.m. throughout the week. Youth must have completed the first grade in order to participate. The cost is \$30 for non-members and \$25 for members. To sign-up, or for more information, call youth programs at Ext. 8713.

Veterans benefits

People who have questions about what Veterans Association benefits they qualify for can contact Richard Ivy, the Overseas Military Services Coordinator, at Ext. 5407.

Estate claims

Any person(s) having claims for or against the estate of Tech. Sgt. Michael Knight should call Capt. Joseph Vick at Ext. 7336 or 335-156-1068.

Any person(s) having claims for or against the estate of Senior Airman Seneca Johnston should call Capt. Lana Zimlik at 334-964-8564 or e-mail lanazimlik@aviano.af.mil.

Mail delivery

People taking leave or going TDY need to put their mail on hold to avoid postal clerks returning their mail. The post office can also temporarily forward mail to the location. To put mail on hold or to forward mail, fill out a Postal Service form 2258. People with a trustworthy friend can also grant them permission to retrieve mail. To have someone retrieve mail, both people must fill out a Postal Service form 3801. For more information, visit the post office.

vMPF

People who have recently married or added a child to their family should check their virtual record of emergency data in the virtual military personnel flight. They should also check their Servicemembers Group Life Insurance and Family Members Servicemembers Group Life Insurance at the Military Personnel Flight. E-mail accounts should also be updated in the vMPF. For more information, call Ext. 4686.

Reel Times

Today, 7 p.m. - "X-Men: The Last Stand" Rated PG-13 - The X-Men try to foster good will for mutants. Starring: Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart

Today, 10 p.m. - "X-Men: The Last Stand" Rated PG-13

Saturday, 7 p.m. - "United 93" Rated R - The story of the passengers, crew and their families on the ground who watched the horror of United Airlines Flight 93 unfold. Starring: Ben Sliney, Opal Alladin

Saturday, 10 p.m. - "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift" Rated PG-13 - An outsider attempts to define himself as a hot-headed, underdog street racer. Starring: Lucas Black, Shad "Bow Wow" Gregory Moss

Sunday, 7 p.m. - "Stick It" Rated PG-13 - An ex-gymnastics star finds herself on the wrong side of the law and rediscovers her love for the sport. Starring: Missy Peregrin, Vanessa Lengies

Wednesday, 7 p.m. - "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift" Rated PG-13

Thursday, 7 p.m. - "Hoot" Rated PG - A Montana boy moves to Florida and uncovers a disturbing threat to local endangered owls. Starring: Luke Wilson, Logan Lerman

(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

Fly Bys

Local festivals

• Caneva is hosting a festival with food and music near the castle from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday. A historical reenactment will be at 6 p.m. and Caneva will also have a medieval dinner. To make a dinner reservation, call 0434-79510 or 347-895-9539.

• The Rendentore Festival is one of the Venetians' most treasured festivities. The festival features a religious procession and a fireworks display Saturday in Venice. For more information, visit www.comunevenezia.it or www.venezia.net.

• People looking for musical performances can venture throughout the Friuli region during July. For a list of locations, visit www.euritmica.it, www.folkest.com or www.ondemediterranee.it.

• Green Volley Faedis is a sporting event in the town of Faedis, near Udine. The event is Thursday through July 23 and features different sports, and tournaments with athletes from all over Europe. For more information, visit www.greenvolley.com.

• Oderzo is hosting a festival from July 21 to 24. The festival includes wine and grappa tasting, food tasting along the archaeological route of the town, a music contest, bird fair, cabaret show and concludes with a midnight fireworks show on July 25.

WALK IN THE PARK LEADS TO PREHISTORIC FIND

**Story and photo by
Senior Airman Colleen Wronek
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

What? Italy had dinosaurs? No way! I don't know why I thought that millions of years ago dinosaurs only roamed the Great Plains. So when I discovered Italy had a carnivorous dinosaur footprint, I decided to go check it out.

It was a beautiful day and I wanted to go for a bike ride. I decided to visit the nearby national park, but before I left, I searched the Parco Naturale Regionale delle Dolomiti Friulane Web site for any interesting sites or good trails. The website informed me of the footprint, which is located near the Claut entrance.

Claut is a beautiful 45-minute drive north of Aviano. To get to the park, follow the signs in Claut and pass through a village called Lesis. After crossing the bridge, park at the Pian del Muscol parking area. At the parking area there are Italian signs and maps to trails and sites within the park. There are also modern-style restrooms to use before the hike.

The dinosaur footprint is about five kilometers from the parking area. It's a scenic walk, but I recommend not bringing a bicycle unless you are a talented cyclist. The 5k is mostly a steep incline with various terrain. I felt like I was cursed pushing the bicycle up the mountain and then having to push it back down because the incline was too steep to ride.

The road to the footprint is very narrow and steep and winds up the mountain. People can drive the road if they wish, but I wouldn't recommend it. Although a two-way road, there is room for only one small car and no place to pull over if cars are heading in the opposite direction.

When I finally arrived at the footprint, I was rewarded with a large waterfall and lagoon. The park is filled with natural wonders



and beauty. It was the perfect place to get away from it all and see flora, fauna and a bit of prehistoric history.

For more information on the Parco Naturale Regionale delle Dolomiti Friulane and other national parks in Italy, visit <http://www.parks.it/>. The website is in English and lists various entrances to the parks, natural wonders and points of interest.

Cheese: A cheese festival with Montasio cheese tasting is Friday through Sunday at the Malinisio powerplant, near Montreale Valcellina.

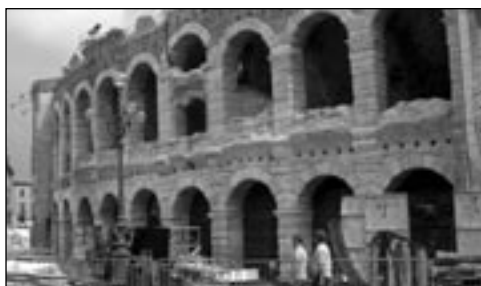


Photo by Senior Airman Sarah Gregory

People can enjoy Italian opera, which is held in the **Verona** Arena.

Information, Tickets and Tours

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Tours office include:

- Today - Sunday - French Riviera
- Saturday - Opera "Tosca" in Verona Arena
- Saturday - Guided Lugano and chocolate factory
- July 22 - Guided Verona and Medieval Times dinner show.

ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and

departs from destinations as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area.

Please note weather conditions and dress accordingly for trips. The ITT staff recommends wearing comfortable shoes because almost all tours involve walking. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026 for more information.

He's no lightweight:

Aviano Airman gets pumped, wins competition

By Tech. Sgt. Jerome Baysmore
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

An Aviano Airman flexed his way to the top of the lightweight class last month at RAF Mildenhall, England.

Matt McCall, 31st Maintenance Squadron AMMO troop, won his weight class at the Ultrabodies VII competition June 24.

"It was a good experience," the Pittsburgh, Pa. native said. "It was a smaller competition and great for my first time out."

The annual competition is open to all bases in Europe. All military, dependents, Department of Defense and Ministry of Defense civilians can compete in Ultrabodies.

McCall said the only reason he decided to compete was because his friend and fellow bodybuilder, Delana Jemison, who took first in the female middleweight category, talked him into competing.

"I didn't want to go, but she made me do it," he said. "It was very difficult to maintain the diet, but it was worth it at the end."

"It just feels good that all the hard work paid off."

McCall said he has been lifting for the last six years before he decided to compete, and his advice to anyone eager to take up bodybuilding is planning.

"Stick to a plan and keep at it," he said.

Although his first competition win is behind him, McCall said he's focused on another goal - completing a marathon.



Courtesy Photo

Matt McCall, 31st Maintenance Squadron, took first place in his weight class at the Ultrabodies VII competition at RAF Mildenhall, England June 24.

"I'm in really good shape from competing," he said. "I'm training for the marathon in Venice in October."

"I might as well try it."

Healing hands: The Area Two Fitness Center offers massage therapy. Call 348-364-0684. for info.



Intramural golf standings

Team	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct
31st SFS	7	0	3	.850
31st MXS A	7	2	1	.750
31st MXS B	5	2	3	.650
31st AMXS	4	2	4	.600
31st CES	4	3	2	.556
31st C	3	3	3	.500
31st MXS AMMO	4	4	1	.500
31st MSS	2	3	4	.444
31st LRS	2	4	3	.389
603rd ACS	1	3	2	.333
31st OSS	1	7	2	.200
724th AMS	0	7	2	.111

The playoffs begin at noon Thursday at the Alpine Golf Course. It will be a single elimination bracket and all 12 teams will be in the playoffs.

Information current as of July 7.

Fly Bys

Sports classics

The Aviano Summer Sports Classic hosts a dinner and moonlight golf game at 10 p.m. July 22, a softball tournament at 7 p.m. July 28 in the Dragon Fitness Center sports complex, flag football at 10 p.m. Aug. 19 at the Dragon Fitness Center, X-Box Wars at 10 p.m. Aug. 26 in the Area One community center, and volleyball and horse shoes at 10 p.m. Sept. 9 at the flightline dorm area. Events include free food, door prizes and recognition for the winners.

For more information on the ASSC events, call Ext. 8238.

Soccer camp

A soccer camp is from July 23 to 29 at the Aviano Youth Program sports field in Area F. The camp is from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. for youth ages 6-7, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for youth ages 8-9 and 2 to 4 p.m. for youth over age 10. The cost is \$30 for non-members and \$25 for members.

For more information, call Aviano Youth Programs at Ext. 7874.

Volksmarch

The Aviano Road Runners next Volksmarch is to Belfiore di Pramaggiore. The group meets at the Bar Municipio in Roveredo at 4 p.m. Saturday. A Volksmarch is also scheduled for Sunday to Piancavallo. The group meets at the Bar Municipio at 7:45 a.m. For more information, call Ext. 7692 or 7404.

Cheerleading Camp

Kaiserslautern High School hosts a Universal Cheer Association Cheerleading Camp Sept. 1 to 3. The camp is open to all prospective high school cheerleaders and schools sponsoring a cheer team. The cost is \$100 per student.

A cheerleading coach camp will also be held. The cost is \$30. For more information, e-mail Jane Varalli at jane.varalli@eu.dodea.edu.

Voluntary assignment programs temporarily suspended

By Senior Airman Colleen Wronek
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Because of Air Force manning level projections, certain voluntary assignment programs on hold until Aug. 20.

Assignment programs affected include DEROS extensions, joint spouse assignments for couples at different bases, base of preference, voluntary stabilized base assignments and follow-on/home basing assignments.

"We don't want to cause a panic. This is only impacting people within the next 60 days," said Senior Master Sgt. Erica Squires, 31st Mission Support Squadron personnel relocations and employment superintendent. "The suspension is temporary, and we will let everyone know once the suspension is lifted."

Sergeant Squires said the suspension has no impact on PCS assignment actions, only voluntary assignments.

"People tend to extend their DEROS here and some people may be concerned their DEROS extension won't get approved," she said. "People affected by the suspension can still submit their applications, which will be worked on a case-by-case basis."

For more information on the voluntary assignment programs, call the military personnel flight at Ext. 7216.



Photo by Airman Liliana Moreno

Storm damage

Staff Sgt. Vincent Metcalf, 31st Maintenance Squadron, controls the air pressurer lifting the nose and tail of the flipped Army Black Hawk helicopter July 6. Air Force and Army members worked together to upright the helicopter and haul it away after a powerful storm knocked the aircraft on its backside June 29.

Commissioning: Airman interested in a commission can attend a commissioning briefing at 9 a.m. July 21 in Bldg. 147, Area One.

Tower, from page 1

"Some of us have dual qualification and are able to work at both facilities," Sergeant Anzoategui said. "With the two facilities next to each other, determining manning is easier."

The new tower has the latest in air traffic control equipment. "The tower provides better radio communications," said Maj. Rich Greene, 31st OSS airfield operations flight commander. "Before they were using analog communications; now they have digital, which is more reliable."

The new tower can also support a high-tech tower simulator.

"They used to train on a table with a map of the airfield," Major Greene said. "Now, our simulator is a large computer with a 200-degree view of the airfield."

"The console they step into is exactly the same as what they work with."

Major Greene said air traffic controllers can use the simulator to simulate weather conditions or prepare someone for a deployment downrange.

"We have a state-of-the-art facility which has enhanced safety and operational capability. This tower is going to be a great asset to the wing," Sergeant Anzoategui said.

AFN ends radio sports broadcasts

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – Department of Defense officials announced July 5 that the American Forces Network, or AFN, will end broadcasting play-by-play sports on radio later this summer.

The decision to discontinue live play-by-play sports on radio was based upon a series of DOD worldwide audience surveys of servicemembers and civilian employees stationed overseas, which found a preference to watch sports, rather than just listen to them. The impact of live sports on overseas local affiliate radio schedules was also factored into the decision.

"AFN audiences prefer to watch the greater variety of sports on television rather than listen to them on the radio," said Robert Matheson, director of broadcasting at the AFN Broadcast Center in Riverside, Calif.

"When radio sports coverage comes on, most listeners tune out," Mr. Matheson said. "Our mission is better served when the largest possible audience tunes in to non-sports programming and spends more time listening."

AFN radio play-by-play sports

broadcasts were, as recently as 10 years ago, broadly listened to. Since then, AFN television sports coverage has expanded exponentially.

"More and more sports fans have been turning to AFN television for the greater variety of sports," Mr. Matheson said. "We used to air only one or two TV games a week. Since the introduction of AFN-sports and AFN-xtra, our multiple AFN television services, including AFN-prime, carry nearly 80 events a week."

Most play-by-play sports on AFN Radio ended with the conclusion of the NBA championships. Some motor sports programming will remain on AFN radio's schedule in order to complete their seasons. The Sept. 9 NASCAR Nextel Cup race at Richmond International Raceway is scheduled to be the final AFN radio sports play-by-play broadcast.

"We signed agreements with the Motor Racing Network and the Indy Racing League before reassessing our approach to radio sports," Mr. Matheson said. "We'll honor those agreements."